

THE
Witch of the Woodlands : 11.
OR, The
Coblers New Translation ;
Written by L. P.

Here Robin the Cobler for his former evils,
Was punish't worst then Faustus was with de-
vils.



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THE Witch of the Woodlands:

O R,
The Coblers New Translation.

CHAP. I.

In the wilde of Kent, not far from Rumney
Market there dwelt a merry-conceited Cob-
bler, commonly called Robin the Devill, which
afterwards came to be called, The Witch of the
Woodlands. This Cobler alwayes had a spe-
ciall care to please his Customers, but chiefly
he would be sure that if any pretty Wench
brought him a job to doe, he would go through
Witch with her woxe first of all, He could jest
and be merry in compaines ; he could sing in
his shop like a Nightingale ; he could cut a ca-
per with Jack Pudding, and was not much in-
ferior to lusty Laurence; which got eighteen
wenches with childe all in one yeare, for it was
well knowne that he got thre wenches with
childe all in one night; but as the Proverb goes,
The Pitcher that goes often to the water, may
at last come broken home : And the sweetest
meat requires the sowrest sawce : So it fared
with Robin the Cobler, for one of his wenches

being suddenly brought to bed with a male childe, the Mother of the Damosell set bed Robin the Cobler with a Warrant, and made him to marry her daughter out of hand ; then was the pore Cobler fallen into a pecke of troubles, and knew not how to behave himselfe : For though he had been Factor for Mars, yet he never was made a Vulcan before that time ; And now must he provide for cloutes and whitles, fire and candle, sope and starch, white bread and milke, a nurse and a cradle, with many other matters which belongs to married men to looke after ; But as it is in the Proverbe, That one ill chance followes another, So was it with him for the other two Damosels which he had formerly made use of, now began to make use of him, and brought him two children more to keepe, which was done both on one day ; which when Robin the Cobler did behold, he fell into such a fearfull quantarie, so that the people that beheld him, said that he lookt so pittifull upon the matter, that they thought in their mindes that he would never be god againe.

When began Robin with dolefull words, with weeping eyes, and with wrynging hands to bewaile his former follies, saying, O silly rogue that I am, was it not enough for me to sing, dance, drinke Ale, breaue Cakes, talke and be merry amongst Maids ? but that I must like a Towne-Hull, over-run all that stand in my way,

way, and so in the end he bounded for my breaking loose ; now am I in a worse case then Porrage John, Marret the Lawyer, or the Cow-keeper of the Pinder of Wakefield ; I would that my Father had never begot me, then should I never have begotten so many wenches with childe ; or else I would that some honest Bow-gelder had done his office upon me to

Here Robin for his former Letchery,
Doth suffer in his Members grievously.



keep me honest, then had I scap't the misery
now I am farr to endure : Now whilst Robin

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the Cobler was making this sorrowfull lamentation, a friend of his whispered him in the eare, and gave him counsell to be gone from them all, saying, That one paire of heeles is worth two paire of hands; whose counsell Robin tooke, as you shall heare in the following Chapter.

CHAP. II.

RObin the Cobler having hearkned to his friends aduice, made no more to doe of the matter, but trust up his Tools to be gone, resolving to come so[ur] London, and there to worke Journey-wa[ke] till such time that his children were come to be men, and able to worke for themselves; but as he passed along the Countrey, which is called the Wilde of Kent, he lost his way in the Woodlands, when night was almost come upon him, and finding no path to guide him, he wanded up and downe till it was almost ten of the clocke in a pittifull cold frosty darke Winters night: but at the last he heard a Cocke crow, whereby he understood that there was some dwelling house near at hand, and so being somewhat comforted to heare the crowing of the Cocke, he made his approach to the house, and knocking at same, there came forth an old woman with a dilly clout bound

bound about her head, and a staffe in her hand, and demanded of Robin to know what hee knockt for ; O Mother, quoth he, I am a poore distressed Traveller which hath lost my way, and willing would I be to gide for pence for a bed this night to lay my weary bones on : Harry, quoth she, all the beds that I have are not worth for pence, for I have no moare then what I lye on my selfe, but if thou wilt take paines to doe as I doe, thou and I will lye together for once, where we will hug one another as the Devill hugg'd the Witch : Robin behol- ding and taking notice of her person all the body over, saw that she was long-nas'd, bleare-ey'd, crooked-neckt, wry-mouth'd, crump-shoulder'd, bettle-brow'd, thin-belly'd, boyn-legg'd, and splay-footed : He began to frame an excuse, saying, Good Mother, I pray you to consider this, that I am a Batchelour, and never came in bed with any woman since I was borne of my Mother ; While thou sweare that that which thou speakest is true : I will, quoth Robin, whereupon he heard a halloo voice, as if it came out of the top of a Chim-ney, crying thre severall times, Robin the Cobler is mine, Robin the Cobler is mine ; Robin the Cobler is mine ; These words when he heard, he thought that some she-devill was come to fetch him away alive, and pre- sently he fell into such a trembling condition,

that his hands shooke, his pulses beat, his heart panted, his head akeid, his nose dropt, his belly rumbled, and a certain parcell of melting teares dropt out of the lower ends of his breeches, and so falling downe upon his knes to the old woman, desired her to let him haue a lodging, how she woulde, or where she woulde; then the old woman tooke him in, and with a remnant of water which she had kept a long time in a Chamber-pot for that purpose, she wash't him from the crown of the head to the sole of the feet, and made him as white as if he had wash't him in puppy-dog-water, and so they went lovingly to bed together; what followed after shall be related in the ensuing discourse.

CHAP. III.

After that Robin the Cobler had taken his first sleepe, he awaked, and turning himselfe on the other side, he sent for his Wifefellow, but she was not there; and having gotten all the Wifecom to himselfe, he began to wonder with himselfe about the passages which had hapned to him the night before, and therewithall he bethought himselfe how he might use a meanes to get away before the old Witch his new-made Landlady came backe againe to hym, for he supposed that she had gone forth to fetch

fetch companie to cut his throat ; but whilst he was thus thinking, in came the old woman with thre more of her Disciples, with every one of them a light Torch in her hand, crying out all at once, that they would be revenged on Robin the Cobler for all his Wthorhunting tricks : These fourt female Witches could transforme themselves into any humane shape at their owne pleasure ; so she that Robin tooke to be his mother-in-law, brought in an ugly Wears at her heeles, another brought a ravening Wolfe, and the third brought a sharp long broad bladed knife ; poor Robin, altho^{ugh} the weather was cold, and the Bed-clothes very thin, yet he was hot enough : for being in a stinking feare, he covered himselfe over head and eares, all saxe one hole that was in the cobber-lid, whiche he now and then closely peapt out at, but durst not to stir for his life ; but now begins the game, The grand Witch of the Companie, otherwise called the Land-lady of the house, put her hand under the bed, and pulled out a Taber and a Pipe, and plaid such a fit, that it lasted till it was within two houres of day ; all this whilte the other three Witches danc'd the Irish Hay with their heeles upwards, meane time poor Robin the Cobler lay abed and bepist himselfe, till at last two quarts run through the bed upon the ground, whether it were done for joy, or for feare, His leave

leade that to other such as himselfe so consider
of ; but when the Musick was ended, the
Beare began to rore, and the Wolfe began to
howle soz good, then said the old Witch, I have
in the house the bravest breakfast for your two
Familiars that they have feasted on eber
since they devoured the two damnable Whores
which were bewitcht as they rode in a Coach
towards a Bawdy-house in London ; and
now since that Witches have power of none
but Swearers and Cursers, Thieves and dis-
semblers, Pimps, Bawys and panders, whores
and Whore-hunters, and such like manner of
people, let us make the best use of our time
that we may : And now you shall see what a
gallant prize I have lighted upon by chance :
There was a merry disposed Cobler, which
dwelling not far from the Tewne of Rummey,
who was every day used to drinke, swagger,
swear and domineere, and oftentimes he would
say that he car'd not a turd for all the Witches
in the World, and that he had a trick to de-
fend himselfe from the power of Witches ;
which was by washing his hands, and saying
his Prayers every morning before he went
forth of the doores ; but although he serued
God in the morning, he serued the Devill ere
night ; for there was hardly one day in the
weke, but he would goe a whoring, and often-
times he would intice honest Wenchess to linnen
by

by his dissembling speeches, and his false so-
swearing himselfe, making them believe, that if
he got them with childe, he would marry with
them; amongst the rest, he got three Widdowes
daughters with childe, all in one night, making
every one of them believe, and swearing that
he would marry with them the morrow after,
which he never did intend, but as last Good-
wise Webb the Widdow forc'd him to marry
her daughter; which being done, the other two
Wenchess which he had gotten with childe, be-
ing delivered, brought him their two children
to keep, so as he got them all three with childe
in one night, so they brought him three children
to keep in one day; these things he thought
that Witches had not knowne, but my Imps
spent not their time in vaine, for I every night
sent forth my familiar Imp Madge of Wake-
field, in the likeness of a blake Cat, which
told me of every thing that Robin the Cobler
did doe; but the archeſt piece of Roguerie that
ever he did in all his life, was done to a Wid-
dow woman in the Isle of Thanet, for he pro-
mis'd her marriage, and made her ſell her
Widdowes Cat for ſoure and twenty pound,
and told her, that if ſhe woul'd lend him the
money to buy him Leather, that he would be
married to her on Thursday next, and wifte,
that if he did not doe according to his promise,
that he might be ſtraine in pieces with Woelbeg

and

and Beares, but he never came backe to the
 Widdow againe ; And last of all he run away
 from his Wifre and thre Children, and now he
 lies under that Coblid : When the other
 thre Witches had heard this discovarie, they
 all leapt for joy, and the thre familiar spirits
 which went in the shape of a Wolfe, a Beare,
 and a blacke Cat, were ready to teare the Witches
 to pieces for victuals, they were so hun-
 gry ; then said one of them to the rest, seeing
 hee wist that hee might be devoured by
 WOLVES and BEARES, he shall have his wist,
 and he shall presently be cut in quarters, and
 the Wolfe shall have his Heart, Liver, and
 Lungs for his breakfast, the Beare shall have
 his Paunch and Boivels, and the Cat shall
 have his priuy members to gnaw upon : Nay,
 quoth the older Witch, it shall not be so, for
 he shall not have so pleasant a death as you
 speake of, but we will have a little more sport
 with him before he dyes : That very wond
 pprocured some comfort to Robins languishing
 spirits ; for he had rather chuse to lead a sor-
 rowfull life, then to dye a sudden death : And
 now to be briese in the matter, they pul'd the
 Bed-clothes from off him, and made him stand
 up stark naked as ever he was borne before
 them, the Wolfe bit him by the throat, the
 Beare bit him by the bum, and the Cat bit him
 by the members, and every one drew blood of
 him,

him, but did him no great harme at that time ; Now, said the old Witch, we haue markt you for our owne, and therewithall she past sentence upon him, that he shold haue thre dayes punishment for his former offences, and afterwards he was to be eaten up alive ; the first of the thre dayes he was to be transformed into the shape of a Fox, and to be chased with Dogs from morning till night.

Here Robin the Cobler like a Fox doth run,
Before the Dogs, whose rage he cannot shun.



The second day he was to be a riding Nag,
and to carry the Witch whither she pleased :
The third day he was to be an Owle, and so
fye

fly from one place to another all the day long; so having agreed upon the matter, as soon as the day appeared, Robin the Cobler was to be a sor, and so out of the dores they set him a running, and having transform'd themselves into the shape of dogs, followed close at his heeles, and every time they overtake him, they bit him by the buttckes, and nipt him most devilishly, so they had no mercy in their teeth.

The next day they transform'd him into the shape of a Horse, and so the Witches got upon his backe, thre of them at a time, and rid him over hills and mountaines, through Rivers and Ponds, through all sorts of wasters thicke and thin; and worst of all, they rid him through so many bushes, brambles, and briars, til they toze the very skin from the flesh of him; so that the Whozemasters blood of his run from him in many places, and yet were not his sorowes at an end, nor no man knowes when they will be.

The third day they made an Owle of him, who flying up and down from Tre to Tre at noon time of the day, crying, whu, whu, whu, the birds came thick and threfold about him, wondering most strangely to see an Owle abroad by day light; wherefore to fulfill the old proverbe, they all fell upon him like Pyes upon an owle: And to be breife, they pluckt his feathers, broke his wings, and pickt out one of his eyes: This being done, the grand Witch consulting with

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the rest of the Witches, saying, That Robin the Cobler had done enough of any conscience for his wenching tricks, and so they turn'd him into the shape of a Swan:

Here Robin by the virtue of a Swan,
Hath broke the Witches charmes, and is a
man.



And last of all they withdrew their Inchanting Spels, and so Robin the pitifull Cobler became a man againe; but before he departed, they made him to kne the doorne, and kisse every one of their fleshy parts, and therewithall they parted household.

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C H A P. I V.

How Robin the Cobler having fgot loose from
the Witches, became a new man, and of ma-
ny notable exploits which he did, you shall
pleasantly heare.

Now when Robin the Cobler had broken
the spels of witchcraft, his eye-sight, his
hearing, his speach, his senses, and his know-
ledge, was all restored unto him againe, but yet
he looke of a pittifull complextion, just as a man
may say, like one of Pharaoh's leane kine ; his
visage was pale and ghastly, his eyes seemed as
if they were sunke into his head, his nose was
like the nose of a scoulding Ale-wife, long and
sharp, and his tounge did gaggle, as if it had
been made of the Devils bollock leather, his bel-
ly and his backe were so clung together, that he
was scarce able to shif for bones.

Noz had he any kind of Habit to put on that
was worth the throwing to the dunghill, only
an old towlisse smocke, and a paire of Slip-shoers,
which one of the Witches had given him out of
her mere pittifull charity ; but yet he knew
himselfe to be in a far more happier faking then
he was in before, when he was tider with three
The-devils at one time.

Then began Robin to ruminante, and to think
what course he were best to take, and which way

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was best for him to striue his helme, and at last he resolved to take his journey once more for the famous City of London, and to try if sojourn would afford him any better lacke then he had before; but he bow'd that he would keep along on the Road, and never goe through the Woodlands any more, for feare lest the Witches should meet with him again. Now as he passed along on the way, in every Towne and Village where he came, the boyes and the Children woul run away from him, thinking that he had been mad, insomuch that there was not one idle boy or girle to be seen in the streets, but here comes one, the very bitterest of al, poor Robin the Cobler, having gone along on his journey for the space of almost two wofull dayes and nightes, without bread or drinke, or money to buy, he began to bewail his sorrowfull life, in this mourntull manner: Oh pittifull Cobler that I am, for now I am in a worse case then ever I was before. When I was a Horse, the Witches did ride me, and put me to much pain, but yet they gave me somewhat to feed upon at night, though it were but branne and water, which I can approve to be pretty good fare for horses when they are very hungry, and so they may have enough to fill their bellies withall. When I was a Dog, the Witches in the shapes of Dogs ran after me, and hurried me up and downe, and at every stop and turne bit me by

the buttocks ; but now am I hungerbissen,
which is ten thousand times worse. When I
was an owle, I was most shamefully abused,
and wondered at by other birds ; but now am I
made a wondering stocke to all the folks that
sees me, insomuch that no man, woman nor
childe, will not now dare not come anear me, long
as the poverty of my flesh, and disguise of habit.
Oh what a pitifull wretched case am I in now ;
An Ape, an Owle, a Fox, a Goose, a Horse, an
Oxe or an Asse is in a far better taking then I
am in. O that I could with Diogenes Mare
feed upon thistles, or like a Camelion, live by the
aire. Now whilst he was thus complaining,
by chance came along a blind Beggar man,
which had a whole Wallet full of fragments
of Fish and meat, and marmiacks of Bread
and Chese, which he had gotten amongst his
good benefactors. When Robin the Cobler had
first his eyes upon the blind mans Wallet of
victuals, the very heart in his belly leapt for
joy, hoping that then he should fill his belly once
again, and thereupon taking courage upon
him, he made his addresse, and spake to the blind
Beggar man, by way of complement, knowing
that the blind man could not see what manner
of person he was, and so taking hold of him by
the shoulder, began to expresse his mind in this
manner: Well overtaken Father, how far walk
you this way, marry, quoch the Beggar, but to
the

the next Village, and for want of a Guide to lead me, I am in feare that I shall come too late to my lodging ; why quoth the Cobler, rather then you shall doe amisse, I will take the paines to lead you my selfe, for I love old men with all my heart.

C.H.A.P. V.

Here followeth a discourse of the happy fortune that happened to Robin the Cobler after all his miseries.

AND Robin the Cobler was leading the blind Beggar along on the way, the blind man found him to be exceeding diligent, and therewithall desired of Robin to know who he was that would undervalue himselfe to take paines to lead him ; Then quoth Robin, I am a Gentleman borne and bred, and so you would say if you could but see me ; but as it comes to passe, I have never a penny to help my selfe, for I have been a valiant Cavalier for the King, but by the fortune of the Warres I am utterly undone for ever, unlesse some spedy help come by heavenly Providence, I tell you Father, my Land not long since was sequestred, my goods and my money taken from me, and my body carried to prison, where I have lain thre years,

thre monthe, thre wicks, and thre dayes, and
 at the last, by happy chance I got out of prison ;
 but now I am out I know not how to live, nor
 how to get one bit of bread to relieve my hun-
 gry stomacke, so I have been fasting two dayes
 and nightes, and never a bit of victuals came
 within my body : Alas for you good Sir, said
 the Beggar, I much lament your case, but if
 you will be pleased to accept of such poore fare
 as I have in my wallet, you shall be heartily
 welcome to it, and the next Alehouse that we
 come to I will give you liquor of the best to



swallow it downe; whereupon the Wallet was laid downe, and the victuals sorte out upon the green banke. I thinke there was no need to bid Robin to eat, but when he had filled his belly away they went together chearfully to the place appointed, where they lay lovingly toge-
ther that night, and the next day the Beggar brought him home to his owne house, where was plenty of god clothes, both of Wollen and Linnen, with which the Beggar sauted Robin, and also directed him to a coffer whers was two hundred and fifty pounds of ready money; All this quoth the Beggar, shall be your owne when I dye, if you will stay with me all my life time.

Whereupon the Cobler replied, with a very god will Sir; which bargaine being made, Robin and his old Master would every day walks about to god mens houses, to see what victuals they could get, till at the last, Robin became as cunning at the Trade as his Master, and was acquainted with most of the Master-Beggars that lived in the County of Kent.

But to conclude, In proesse of time, the blind Beggar dyed, and then all his wealth fell to Robin, who afterwards went home to his former habitation, and tooke order for the bairding up of the thre children that he got in one night,

night, and gave the two wenches ten pounds apiece for the injury that he had formerly done them, and threw the rest of the money into his ~~wifes~~ lap, and so endeth the story of Robin the Cobler.

FINIS.

